

the oral disk of the parent to the perfect corallite; 1 A, the central corallite of the preceding, enlarged, with two young corallites. Main Limestone (Lower Carboniferous), Boghead, Lesmahagow.

Fig. 2. *Lonsdaleia duplicata*, Mart., transverse section of a small slab; 2 A, two of the corallites enlarged. Lower Carboniferous, near Muirkirk.

Fig. 3. *Lonsdaleia floriformis*, Flem., transverse section of a small slab; 3 A, two of the corallites enlarged. Lower Carboniferous, Bathgate, Linlithgowshire.

PLATE XVII.

Fig. 1. *Lonsdaleia rugosa*, McCoy, longitudinal section of three corallites, taken from a large slab; 1 A, a corallite, showing the acutely conical boss formed by the columella in the floor of the calice, and the columellary line in the centre; 1 B-1 F, corallites in various stages of growth, arising from the outer vesicular tissue. The different appearance presented by different portions of the section is due to the flexuous form of the corallites. Main Limestone (Lower Carboniferous), Boghead, Lesmahagow.

XXIX.—Description of a new Species of the Genus *Merula* from the Fiji Islands. By E. L. LAYARD, C.M.G., H.B.M. Consul for Fiji and Tonga, F.Z.S., &c. &c.

*Merula vitiensis*, n. sp.

Some months since my kind friend Mr. A. Tempest, among a collection of birds made by him for me at Bua, on the large island of Vanua Levu, gave me a specimen of a "Blackbird," which at the time I identified, from the short description in the 'Ornithologie der Viti-, Samoa- und Tonga-Inseln' of Drs. Finsch and Hartlaub, as *Merula vanicoroensis*. The acquisition by myself, at Samoa, of specimens of that bird, at once, however, showed me that I had committed an error; and I hasten to rectify it.

The Fiji bird, which I propose to call *Merula vitiensis*, is of a silky smoky brown above, not nearly so dark as *vanicoroensis*; below, it is grey-brown, with the same silky lustre; throat and side of neck grey; the centre of the belly has some feathers tinged with ruddy brown; bill and legs bright pale yellow. Length 7" 6<sup>m</sup>, wing 4" 3<sup>m</sup>, tail 3" 2<sup>m</sup>, tarse 1" 5<sup>m</sup>, bill 1" 2<sup>m</sup>.

Mr. Tempest describes this bird as being extremely shy and difficult to procure, in notes and habits resembling the European bird, scratching on the ground under bushes. The nest also is said to resemble that of *M. vulgaris*.